

Amdt. Dated September 2, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of June 4, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a tissue product, said method comprising:

forming a paper web from a cellulosic fibrous material and a particulate superabsorbent material, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to 3% by weight of said paper web, said superabsorbent material having a total swelling capacity of at least about 20 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material; and

at least partially drying said paper web;

wherein the tissue product is formed primarily from said paper web and optionally one or more additional paper webs, the tissue product having a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.

71. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said superabsorbent material is provided in a dry state.

72. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, further comprising pre-swelling said superabsorbent material before forming said paper web.

73. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 72, wherein said superabsorbent material is pre-swollen to at least about 30% of its total swelling capacity.

74. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 72, wherein said superabsorbent material is pre-swollen to at least about 50% of its total swelling capacity.

75. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said superabsorbent material has a total swelling capacity of from about 100 to about 350 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material.

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76. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, further comprising applying a wet-strength agent, a softening agent, or combinations thereof, to said paper web.

77. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said paper web is dried to a moisture content of less than about 20% by weight of said web.

78. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said paper web is dried to a moisture content of from about 5% to about 15% by weight of said web.

79. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said cellulosic fibrous material and said superabsorbent material are combined before or during the formation of said paper web.

80. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said cellulosic fibrous material and said superabsorbent material are combined in a headbox.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said superabsorbent material includes particles, fibers, flakes, filaments, spheres, or combinations thereof.

83. (Cancelled)

84. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said paper web is dried using a through-air dryer.

85. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said superabsorbent material is dried to a moisture content of less than about 50% of the weight of said superabsorbent material.

86. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein said superabsorbent material is dried to a moisture content of less than about 25% of the weight of said superabsorbent material.

87. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 70, wherein the tissue product contains multiple plies, one of which is formed by said paper web.

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88. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a tissue product, said method comprising:

pre-swelling a particulate superabsorbent material, said superabsorbent material having a total swelling capacity of from about 100 to about 350 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material;

forming a paper web from a cellulosic fibrous material and said pre-swollen superabsorbent material, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of said paper web; and

at least partially drying said paper web;

wherein the tissue product is formed primarily from said paper web and optionally one or more additional paper webs, the tissue product having a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.

89. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 88, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of said paper web.

90. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 88, wherein said superabsorbent material is pre-swollen at least about 30% of its total swelling capacity.

91. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 88, wherein said superabsorbent material is pre-swollen to at least about 50% of its total swelling capacity.

92. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a tissue product as defined in claim 88, wherein said superabsorbent material is pre-swollen to at least about 70% of its total swelling capacity.

93. (Currently Amended) An absorbent tissue product that is formed primarily from one or more paper webs, wherein at least one paper web of the tissue product comprises a cellulosic fibrous material and from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of a pre-swollen particulate superabsorbent material, wherein the absorbent tissue product has a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.

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94. (Previously Presented) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 93, wherein said superabsorbent material has a moisture content of less than about 50% of the weight of said superabsorbent material.

95. (Previously Presented) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 93, wherein said superabsorbent material has a moisture content of less than about 25% of the weight of said superabsorbent material.

96. (Previously Presented) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 93, wherein the absorbent tissue product contains multiple plies, one of which is formed by said paper web.

97. (Previously Presented) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 93, wherein said pre-swollen superabsorbent material constitutes from about 0.1% to about 3% of said paper web.

98. (Previously Presented) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 93, wherein said paper web is a through-dried web.

99. (Previously Presented) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 93, wherein said pre-swollen superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of said paper web.